

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
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Norikazu SAKAI)	
)	
Application No.: Unassigned)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
)	
Filed: February 26, 2004)	Examiner: Unassigned

For: IMAGE READING APPARATUS, IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS
AND IMAGE READING METHOD

Commissioner for Patents
MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application and before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of each listed document is attached. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following is listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and is in a language other than English.

a. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2001-77989. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 3 of the specification of the present application and is shown in the English-language abstract.

b. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2001-281252. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 3 of the specification of the present application and is shown in the English-language abstract.

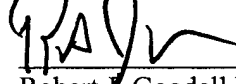
c. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2003-8845. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 3 of the specification of the present application and is shown in the English-language abstract.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and do not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP



Robert J. Goodell Reg. No. 41,040

Date: February 26, 2004

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) PTO Form 1449	Attorney Docket No.	Serial No.
	051626-5010	Unassigned
	Applicant	
	Norikazu SAKAI	
	Filing Date	Group
	February 26, 2004	Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
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*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	<u>Translation</u>	
							YES	NO
		2001-77989	Mar. 23, 2001	Japan			w/abstract	
		2001-281252	Oct. 10, 2001	Japan			w/abstract	
		2003-8845	Jan. 10, 2003	Japan			w/abstract	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

Examiner	Date Considered
Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	